



GUARDIAN OF PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

August 8, 2008

Preparedness and Planning

DHS Allocates \$1.8 Billion in Preparedness Grants

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) [announced](#) a total of \$1.8 billion in grants, primarily to states and cities, to fund equipment, training and exercises for terrorism preparedness, up from \$1.7 billion last year. Much of that funding will be spent on contracts for equipment, planning, exercises and training. Fourteen additional urban areas are eligible for Homeland Security Department grants this year to help strengthen homeland security response at the local level. Grant funding priorities for the year include reducing risks from improvised explosive devices and radiological, chemical and biological weapons. The funding also gives high priority to interoperable communications, information sharing and citizen preparedness.

Disaster Preparedness in Urban Immigrant Communities

The Tomas Rivera Policy Institute (TRPI) and the Asian Pacific American Legal Center (APALC) released a [joint study](#) which finds that immigrant and limited English proficient populations are not fully incorporated in disaster preparedness educational efforts and emergency response plans. The study examines selected Latino and Asian immigrant communities in Southern California for disaster education and response preparations in order to improve disaster awareness among immigrant community members and to help emergency response personnel better serve limited English speaking populations. The report recommends that federal and state governments establish a baseline of minimal secondary language resources and that local agencies take a lead in creating informational materials and response plans that take into account the language needs of their constituents. Key findings in the report include:

- A lack of disaster preparedness materials in languages other than English that reflect the demographics of the service populations.
- A shortage of bilingual staff and volunteers among emergency response crews and nonprofits that typically do outreach during emergencies.
- That ethnic media outlets are underutilized as important tools for communication with immigrant and limited English speaking communities.
- Concern that members of the immigrant community will not come forward for assistance for fear that their status will come into question.

Clinical Care in the Hot Zone

The threat of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear incidents is unlikely to decrease and preparations to deal with this type of incident are well established in most European emergency medical systems. In the UK medical care is not currently provided in the "Hot" or contaminated zone. [This article](#) discusses the background to the current threat and suggests that, where survivors are present in the "Hot Zone", medi-

News

PPE Guidance Document

This guidance document provides information on respirator standards and protective ensembles standards that establish minimum performance requirements for personal protective equipment (PPE) for use in terrorism incident response. See [page 2](#) for more details.

Pandemic Vaccination Guidance Released

On July 23, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services issued a report detailing plans for the allocation and distribution of vaccines in the event of a flu pandemic, ranking essential health care workers, members of the military and "mission critical" personnel among the first to receive the immunizations. See [page 3](#) for details.

Online Trainings Offered

The Training and Education section of this issue highlights many online training opportunities. See [page 6](#) for a listing.

Table of Contents...

Preparedness and Planning	1
Communications	3
Pandemic Planning	3
Regional News	4
Other News	5
Training & Education	5

Read the Next *Guardian* Issue!
August 22, 2008

cal care should be started there to minimize delay and maximize the chances of survival.

Health and Nutrition Toolkit

As a collaborative endeavor between Save the Children's (SC) Development and Emergencies teams and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) International Emergency and Refugee Health Branch, this [Emergency Health and Nutrition Toolkit](#) is intended to better prepare technical staff for the health and nutrition issues related to emergency preparedness and response.



Designed as a capacity building resource, the toolkit can be used for training on individual topics, full modules, or as a comprehensive 5-day course. Within the toolkit, you will find six modules: Introduction to the Emergency Context; Save the Children Emergency Preparedness and Response; Assessment Tools; Child Health; Infant and Child Nutrition; and Reproductive and Newborn Health.

FEMA Releases Draft Housing Strategy for Comment

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has announced the draft "National Disaster Housing Strategy", which is available for a sixty-day public [comment period](#) that began July 23. During this comment period, FEMA said the 2008 Disaster Housing Plan will continue to serve as the operational guide for disaster-related housing needs. The strategy summarizes, for the first time in a single document, the many sheltering and housing capabilities, principles, and policies that guide and inform the disaster housing process. It also promotes national housing effort that engages all levels of government, the nonprofit and private sectors, and individuals to collectively meet the urgent housing needs of disaster victims and enable individuals, households, and communities to rebuild and restore their way of life when a disaster threatens or strikes.

PPE for Response to Terrorism Incidents

Relying solely on personal protective equipment (PPE) being marketed on the basis of OSHA/EPA PPE levels could result in exposure levels above acceptable limits, or an unnecessary reduction in operational effectiveness through lack of mobility, decreased dexterity, or reduced operational mission duration. Currently, no single personal protective ensemble can protect the wearer from exposure to all hazards. It is important that the appropriate combination of respirator, protective ensemble and other equipment be selected based on a conclusive hazard assessment at the scene. This [guidance document](#) provides information on NIOSH CBRN respirator standards and NFPA protective ensembles standards that establish minimum performance requirements for PPE for use in CBRN terrorism incident response.



FEMA Flood Mapping Platform

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has embarked on an aggressive 5-year initiative to update the nation's flood hazard maps. Infused with funds provided by the president and congress, FEMA is transforming the way flood maps are created and accessed. The vision for Flood Map Modernization ([Map Mod](#)) entails providing flood maps and data for communities nationwide that are more reliable, easier-to-use, and readily available.

Communications

REMM Website Additions

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has recently updated their Radiation Event Medical Management ([REMM website](#)). This website aims to provide guidance for health care providers, primarily physicians, about clinical diagnosis and treatment during mass casualty radiological/nuclear (rad/nuc) events. New content to the site includes: cutaneous subsyndrome of ARS; graphic display of lymphocyte, platelet, and granulocyte kinetics of ARS; and prototypes of adult medical orders.

FCC Clearinghouse Launched

The Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau has launched a [clearinghouse](#) dedicated to the collection, evaluation and dissemination of public safety and healthcare communications information. Topics include: best practices, case studies, lessons learned, communications plans, continuity plans, emergency plans, FAQs, federal resources/grant information, guidelines, handbooks, interoperability plans, and reference materials.

CERC Best Practices

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has added a [new link](#) to their crisis and emergency risk communication (CERC) webpage. CERC is an approach used by scientists and public health professionals to provide information that allows an individual, stakeholders or an entire community, to make the best possible decisions about their well-being, under nearly impossible time constraints, while accepting the imperfect nature of their choices. The CERC program draws from lessons learned during public health emergencies, and incorporates best practices from the fields of risk and crisis communication.

Pandemic Planning

Pandemic Vaccination Guidance Released

On July 23, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services issued [a report](#) detailing plans for the allocation and distribution of vaccines in the event of a flu pandemic, ranking essential health care workers, members of the military and "mission critical" personnel among the first to receive the immunizations. The guidelines target individuals who play a "critical role in providing care for the sickest persons" and thus have the highest risk of exposure and occupational infections. In addition to front-line public health responders, essential health care workers, emergency medical service providers and law enforcement personnel, the guidelines give priority to inpatient and outpatient health care providers and long-term care workers. Among the general public, meanwhile, infants and toddlers are named as a vaccination priority, followed by pregnant women and children with high-risk conditions. The guidelines further note that pandemic flu vaccines will be allocated in proportion to each state's population, and, while states are urged to follow the national guidance to ensure "fairness and uniformity," state officials can override the recommendations to best meet the needs of their residents.

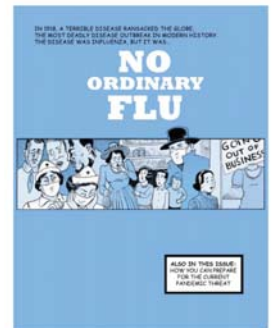


Antivirals During a Pandemic: Uncertainties Persist

During a pandemic, neuraminidase inhibitors will be the antivirals of choice. Based on their potential utility, the U.S. government has made substantial investments to ensure availability during a pandemic: 50 million treatment courses of the approved neuraminidase inhibitors, oseltamivir (Tamiflu®), and zanamivir (Relenza®), have been procured for the Strategic National Stockpile, and a \$102.6 million contract was awarded in 2007 to BioCryst to advance clinical development of peramivir. Nonetheless, there remains great uncertainty about the usefulness of these drugs in a pandemic because access may be limited, resistance may develop, the dose and duration of treatment is uncertain, and numerous barriers may prevent the rapid administration necessary for optimal benefit.

Pandemic Flu Comic Book in Multiple Languages

To promote pandemic flu preparedness, Public Health - Seattle & King County has developed a 12-page comic book on pandemic flu. Targeting readers of all ages, this story tells the tale of a family's experience of the 1918 influenza pandemic. It also explains the threat of pandemic flu today, illustrates what to expect during a pandemic (such as school closures), and offers tips to help households prepare.



Rationing to Protect the Public's Health

How should people be able to receive necessary lifesaving items during a pandemic? Ethicists in Minnesota participated in a panel discussion to present their strategies to handle this dilemma. The videos are available online.

Bacterial Pneumonia and Pandemic Influenza Planning

Emerging Infectious Diseases published an article analyzing the relationship between bacterial pneumonia and pandemic influenza. According to the researchers, bacterial pneumonia must be taken into consideration when planning for a pandemic. The full article is available online.

Avian and Pandemic Flu Updates and Guidelines

The information provided on this website has been developed to help inform Save the Children staff and offices about Avian and Pandemic Influenza programming and preparedness, and is posted here to make this information more accessible to them.

CORE Pandemic Preparedness Resources

In October 2007, USAID funded a pandemic preparedness initiative with the overall goal of building humanitarian response networks within the framework of national pandemic preparedness plans that are able to support community-level response, in order to minimize excess morbidity and mortality, and potential massive social disruption. As a key partner in this initiative, CORE Group's website provides information on 1) strengthening the capability of CORE member organizations to minimize human morbidity and mortality due to an influenza pandemic in high-risk, vulnerable areas in which NGOs operate, 2) developing the necessary local partnerships for effective action, and 3) sharing lessons learned with global partners to develop and inform overall pandemic preparedness guidelines.

Regional News

Midland County Health Officials Prepare for Pandemic

On July 30, Midland County's Public Health Department, with about 40 employ-

ees, conducted "Operation Triage" as part of its ongoing pandemic flu preparation activities. Officials said the exercise centered on setting up a triage point in Dow High School's gym to process patients "because if a pandemic occurred there would be a large surge of ill people, and plans are to allow the health care system to operate without being overwhelmed with stricken individuals," said Fred Yanoski, Midland County public health preparedness coordinator. After an orientation, the health staff saw "patients" from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. to evaluate them on their condition and send them to hospitals, alternative care facilities or home. "Midland County has a plan in place, and this allows us to practice it. We will process patients and make sure they are properly placed," Yanoski said. The Health Department has about 200 beds available for alternative care during an emergency, officials say.

Excerpted from The Saginaw News

Other News

Going Online for Healthcare Information

Ten years ago, in 1998, the Harris Poll began measuring the number of people going online for health care information. This year, the Harris Poll finds 150 million who claim to have gone online to obtain health care information. Of course, 150 million is a huge number and includes 66 percent of all adults and 81 percent of those who are online. It appears that there has been no increase in the total number of people online or in the number of "cyberchondriacs" between 2007 and 2008.



China Issues Anti-Terrorism Manual for Olympics

The Chinese government is briefing residents on how to handle everything from chemical attacks to hijacking, issuing a special new anti-terrorism manual weeks before the Olympics. The handbook offers individuals advice on how to take care of themselves in thirty-nine possible scenarios including arson, shootings and nuclear attack. It is not clear how the books will be distributed, or who will receive them.

DHS Urges Vigilance for Year to Come

The Homeland Security Department (DHS) will soon tell its employees to review security and emergency plans as the country enters into a period of heightened alert lasting until next summer because of the Olympics and U.S. presidential election. The August 8-24 Beijing Olympic Games, presidential nominating conventions, November elections and transition to a new administration pose opportunities for terrorists to attack. Drafts of the heightened alert document were circulated in the past few weeks, and a final document is expected soon.

Training and Education

Food and Agriculture Safety Workshop

The Michigan Food and Agriculture Defense Working Group is hoping to coordinate a workshop in Lansing on September 23. The seminar will touch on basic issues such as: facility security issues, asset characterization, vulnerability analysis, and cyber control systems analysis. This will be a full-day seminar with a cost per company / per attendee. A minimum number of participants is required in order to offer this workshop, so please indicate your availability to Brad Deacon (deaconb9@michigan.gov) immediately!

Date/Time	Event Description	Location
online	Training for Environmental Health Professionals This training material was developed for Environmental Health Professionals (EHP) in Minnesota and across the country as part of the National Association of Community Health Centers' (NACCHO) Advanced Practice Centers program. The initial training program consists of two modules. It has been designed for working professionals to use online.	online
online	Public Health Preparedness Training Website This website from the North Carolina Center for Public Health Preparedness offers free short Internet-based trainings on public health preparedness topics such as disease surveillance, basic epidemiology, bioterrorism, and new/emerging disease agents. Trainings address emergency readiness competencies plus core public health and epidemiology competencies and offer free continuing education credits.	online
online	Course on Meeting the Needs of Persons with Disabilities Targeting staff in county health departments and hospitals, emergency managers, disaster relief teams and professionals working with people with disabilities, "Ready, Willing and Able" was developed by the University's Research and Training Center on Independent Living. The course is available free of charge through TRAIN, an online training system for public health and safety workers. To register, visit the MI-TRAIN website and search for course number 1010882.	online
online	FEMA Independent Study The Emergency Management Institute offers self-paced courses designed for people who have emergency management responsibilities and the general public. All are offered free-of-charge to those who qualify for enrollment. This program offers courses that support the nine mission areas identified by the National Preparedness Goal: Incident Management, Operational Planning, Disaster Logistics, Emergency Communications, Service to Disaster Victims, Continuity Programs, Public Disaster Communications, Integrated Preparedness, and Hazard Mitigation.	online
online	National Center for Disaster Preparedness Online Training Center These courses, offered by Columbia University's Mailman school of Public Health, cover topics including: Point of Distribution Medical Evaluation Officer Training; Basic Emergency Preparedness for Dental Professionals; and Dealing with Disaster Related Trauma in Young Children. Please follow this link for a full listing of online courses.	online
online	Public Health Preparedness Online Training Modules This website , from the Johns Hopkins Center for Public Health Preparedness, offers training modules on the following emergency preparedness and response topics: Agriculture, Food and Water; Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear Terror; Infectious Disease and Vaccines; Legal Issues; Mental Health Preparedness; and General Public Health Preparedness.	online

Date/Time	Event Description	Location
online	CDC Epidemiologic Case Studies These case studies are interactive exercises developed to teach epidemiologic principles and practices. They are based on real-life outbreaks and public health problems and were developed in collaboration with the original investigators and experts from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Topics include botulism, <i>E. coli</i> , and <i>Salmonella</i> .	online
online	Tools for Pharmacists and Health-System Pharmacy Departments Health-system pharmacists and pharmacy departments play a critical role in emergency preparedness. This program will provide the basic information that pharmacists need to become involved in emergency preparedness efforts.	online
online	CDC - Public Health Emergency Law & Forensic Epidemiology Training The Public Health Law Program of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has just released version three of the Public Health Emergency Law and Forensic Epidemiology training materials on CD-ROM. These self-contained training packages were developed for use by instructors in any jurisdiction in the United States who provide public health preparedness training to front-line practitioners.	online
Aug. 12-14, 2008	National Conference on Health Communication and Marketing This conference will give participants: an environment to present findings and recommendations from health marketing, communication and media research; an opportunity to network as well as promote information sharing and interdisciplinary collaboration within the health communication, marketing and media community; and advance the practice of health communication, marketing and media through sharing exemplary programs.	Atlanta, GA
Aug. 26-27, 2008	Is Your Long Term Care Facility Prepared for an Emergency? PREPARE equips senior living and long-term care professionals with the core competencies to address the medical and psychosocial consequences of natural disasters and other public health emergency preparedness and response concerns. Two staff members from each organization/community are trained as PREPARE Specialists through a two-day train-the-trainer workshop. They gain the necessary tools to teach the eight learning modules to their staff. There is no charge for this training. See the informational flyer for more information, including registration details.	MSU Mgmt Education Center 811 Sq Lake Road Troy, MI
Aug. 27, 2008	CERC for Latino Public Health Communicators Crisis and Emergency Risk Communication (CERC) is an approach used by scientists and public health professionals to provide information that allows an individual, stakeholders or an entire community, to make the best possible decisions about their well-being, under nearly impossible time constraints, while accepting the imperfect nature of their choices. Scholarships are available (travel, lodging, and per diem) for 80 participants on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no registration fee for CERC. See the weblink for further information.	Houston, TX

Date/Time	Event Description	Location
Aug. 28, 2008 12-2pm	Immunization Update 2008 This webcast will provide up-to-date information on the rapidly changing field of immunization. Anticipated topics include influenza and zoster vaccines, recently approved vaccines, and updates on vaccine supplies and vaccine safety.	Webcast Only
Sept. 9-10, 2008	Introduction to Emergency Management This entry-level, two-day course provides an overview of Michigan emergency management and the homeland security system. It focuses on disaster management by highlighting the laws, policies, and practices of government and private sector, with a critical look at past disasters and lessons learned. It is strongly recommended for all entry-level or returning emergency managers.	Lansing, MI
Oct. 16, 2008 1-2:30pm	Mass Antibiotic Dispensing: Engaging At-risk Populations The capacity to reach every person in the community is the goal of emergency preparedness planning. This will be especially important during a public health emergency that requires mass antibiotic dispensing to the entire population within the Cities Readiness Initiative goal of 48 hours. In this broadcast , experts in the process of defining, locating, and reaching at-risk populations as well as state and local public health professionals who have used this process will share their experiences.	OPHP Large Training Room (517) 335-8150
Nov. 20-21, 2008	Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Train-the-Trainer This two-day course will provide participants with the skills to teach the CERT program, while emphasizing the basic course along with the development of a program in their community. Previous experience providing and facilitating instruction for adults is desirable. Note: This is a course for CERT trainers and program managers-not for individuals desiring to become CERT team members.	Auburn Hills, MI



Mailing Address:
Office of Public Health Preparedness
Capitol View Building - 201 Townsend Street - Lansing, MI 48913
(517) 335-8150 — <http://www.michigan.gov/ophp>

This publication is supported by Cooperative Agreement Number U90/CCU517018-08 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of CDC.

